

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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UNCLAS ROME 8368

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, IT ,PINT EFIN
SUBJ: YOUTH EMPLOYMENT LEGISLATION

REF: (A) ROME 17812, (B) ROME 7113

1. THE ITALIAN PARLIAMENT HAS GIVEN FINAL APPROVAL TO A LAW PROVIDING EMPLOYMENT FOR 600,000 YOUTH. WELL OVER ONE BILLION DOLLARS (1,060 BILLION LIRE) ARE TO BE EXPENDED OVER A THREE YEAR PERIOD THROUGH A COMPLEX SERIES OF INCENTIVES AND TRAINING PROGRAMS TO PROVIDE THE NUMBER OF JOBS ENVISIONED. THE BILL WAS SUPPORTED BY THE COMMUNISTS AND SOCIALISTS AS WELL AS THE CHRISTINA DEMOCRATS.

2. SOME OF THE JOBS ARE TO BE FUNDED IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR (FORESTRY, ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS, MANNING UNDERSTAFFED MUSEUMS AND PLACES OF HISTORIC/CULTURAL INTEREST). PRIVATE EMPLOYERS IN INDUSTRY, COMMERCE AND AGRICULTURE WILL BE OFFERED A VARIETY OF WAGE REBATES IN ORDER TO TAKE ON YOUNG WORKERS.
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THE LAW APPLIES TO UNEMPLOYED MALES 15-22 YEARS OF AGE, AND TO FEMALES 15-24, WITH AN EXTENSION TO THE AGE OF 29 FOR ALL POSSESSING UNIVERSITY DEGREES.

3. THE HOPE IS THAT AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT PERIOD, EITHER THE EMPLOYERS WILL CHOOSE TO RETAIN THE PERSONNEL HIRED (POSSIBLY THROUGH A PHASED WITHDRAWAL OF WAGE COST SUPPORTS)

OR THE WORKERS WILL HAVE ACQUIRED SUFFICIENT SKILLS TO ACCEPT PERMANENT SKILLED JOBS WHICH OFTEN GO BEGGING. THE LAW IS FRAMED IN SUCH A WAY AS TO ENCOURAGE YOUNG PEOPLE TO TAKE UP AGRICULTURE-- A SECTOR WHICH ITALY HAS TENDED TO NEGLECT IN RECENT YEARS.

4. MINISTER OF LABOR TINA ANSELMI, THE AUTHOR OF THE GOVERNMENT BILL NOW ENACTED IN SOMEWHAT AMENDED FORM, IS AT PAINS TO POINT OUT BOTH THAT THE BILL DOES NOT PROVIDE 600,000 NEW JOBS BUT RATHER THAT NUMBER OF WORK OPPORTUNITIES, AND THAT THIS IS NOT NECESSARILY THE GOVERNMENT'S LAST WORK IN SEEKING TO ASSUAGE THE LARGE-SCALE UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM AMONG YOUTH.

5. COMMENT: THIS BILL, RENDERED ALL THE MORE TIMELY BY THE RECENT SERIES OF VIOLENT YOUTH DEMONSTRATIONS, REPRESENTS THE FULLFILLMENT OF A MAJOR COMMITMENT MADE BY THE ANDREOTTI

GOVERNMENT WHEN IT CAME INTO POWER LAST JULY. THE BILL PROVIDES A MAJOR ROLE FOR THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS, IN MANY OF WHICH THE COMMUNISTS PLAY A MAJOR ROLE. THIS MAY WELL ACCOUNT, IN PART FOR THE READY COMMUNIST CUPPORT OF THE BILL. GARDNER

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